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Lawyers plot Priceline class action

SYDNEY-BASED law firm, Levitt Robinson, is calling on current and former Priceline Pharmacy franchisees, with stores based in NSW, Queensland or Victoria, to join a class action suit against the banner group.

In a notice to franchisees the firm said the objective of the action was to “obtain a fairer franchise agreement”, add value to the investment made by existing franchisees and secure compensation “for any proven infringing conduct, including loss of profits”.

The firm alleges that franchise agreements between pharmacy owners and the Priceline banner, owned by Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API), signed at any time from 18 Nov 2010 onwards, may contain provisions “that may breach the current legislative frame work which governs pharmacies in NSW, Queensland and Victoria”.

“Examples of the features in the

franchise agreements by which Priceline is able to exert control over your pharmacy, involve Priceline pharmacists being required to:

1. Stock the Merchandise Range, which is determined by Priceline;
2. Place orders through the Auto-Replenishment system;
3. Only order through API;
4. Comply with Priceline’s Visual Merchandising systems to ensure compliance with the Brand Alignment Reward Scheme; and
5. Price items as determined by Priceline,” the firm said.

Participants seeking to join the action will be required to opt-in for the litigation-funded suit by registering with Levitt Robinson.

In its prospectus for the case the firm said the action was not designed to devalue or damage the Priceline brand.

A spokesperson for the Pharmacy Council of NSW, which approves store premises and registers



financial interest holders in pharmacy businesses, told **Pharmacy Daily**, it was unable to comment on commercial in confidence matters related to ownership.

However, it noted that, “franchise agreements are examined for compliance with schedule 5F of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW) and in particular the provisions related to financial interests”.

MATES on COVID

THE Veterans’ Medicines Advice and Therapeutic Education Services (Veterans’ MATES) project has released a new topic titled “Keeping well during COVID-19” - [CLICK HERE](#).

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RPMA renewals

THE Pharmacy Programs Administrator has opened the window for renewal applications for the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA), with submissions due by 14 Jun - see ppaonline.com.au.

Qld moves to protect pharmacists

QUEENSLAND has joined Western Australia and NSW in implementing penalties designed to protect pharmacy and other health workers from abuse and assault.

Under the new measures, individuals found to have deliberately coughed, sneezed or spat at a health worker will face a fine of \$1,300, or a penalty of up to \$13,000, if the matter goes to the courts.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Chris Freeman, welcomed the move, noting he had written to State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers “to ask them to protect pharmacists and other frontline health professionals during these uncertain times” (*PD* 09 Apr).

“It’s pleasing to see a number of these states responding to these calls,” he said.

Today’s issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news.

guildlink

GuildLink provides pharmacy with Home Medications Delivery solution

Order Medication Update
Conversation started 1:53 PM, Sunday 29 Mar, 2020.

Hi JOHN, your order has come to \$49.95. Tap to complete payment and we will deliver your order.

If you process payment ASAP, we can have it delivered to you by tomorrow afternoon.

PAY NOW

5:08 PM

Hi JOHN, your order is now on its way to your delivery address.

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Retailers set out post-COVID protocol

RETAIL groups, including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, have come together to release a Retail Recovery for COVID-19 protocol aimed to support the reopening of more stores as restrictions are eased in the coming weeks.

Developed by the Guild, the Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA), National Retail Association (NRA), Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) and the Australian Retailers' Association (ARA), to give employees and customers confidence that retail environments will continue to follow stringent public health guidelines in a less restricted environment.

Guild National President, George Tambassis, said the organisation would, "continue to work closely with the shopping centre industry to ensure a united and collaborative approach".

The new protocol outlines a series of steps retailers can take including:

- Making alcohol-based hand sanitiser available at

key locations such as store entrances, building entrances, customer service desks and food courts,

- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of regularly used objects and hard surfaces (e.g. payment registers, EFTPOS machines, hand-rails, bathroom door handles, shelves, shopping trolleys, counters and benches, food-court tables, staff-rooms) and other key hygiene measures (e.g. waste disposal).
- Facilitating and encouraging social distancing and public gathering limits in accordance with Government directions, which is currently a distance of 1.5m and a limit of no more than one person per 4m² in stores. Actions could include signage 'reminders', one-way queueing, ground markings (e.g. stickers or tape) for customer queues.
- Daily check-ins with staff on



their well-being, ensuring staff and contractors are properly trained and have access to relevant information and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The coalition of retailers has also issued a call for the public to treat retail workers with respect while they continue to service and ensure the community has access to essential and other retail goods and services.

Bandit on the run

WESTERN Australian Police are investigating an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Port Kennedy on Mon.

The bandit, who was in possession of a handgun, entered the store, wearing a surgical mask to cover his face and demanded prescription medications from staff.

The thief then made off with a number of boxes of prescription medicines.

TGA issues vitamin B6 safety advisory

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) yesterday advised of recent reports, both in Australia and overseas, which indicate that peripheral neuropathy may occur at a daily dose of less than 50mg a day of vitamin B6 (pyridoxine).

Issues have also been reported in consumers taking more than one product containing B6, with the TGA currently reviewing the issue.

"The outcome of this review may result in changes to the requirements for medicines that contain vitamin B6," the TGA said. There are currently more

than 1,000 listed medicines in Australia containing pyridoxine, and currently only products containing over 50mg are required to have a warning about potential tingling, burning or numbness.

Consumers and health professionals are urged to be aware that peripheral neuropathy can occur at doses of less than 50mg of vitamin B6 per day, and patients presenting with symptoms should be reviewed for vitamin B6 intake from sources such as B vitamins, multivitamins and/or magnesium products.

UK visa boost

OVERSEAS trained pharmacists currently working in the UK with visas due to expire before 01 Oct 2020 will receive an automatic one year extension, according to an update from Britain's Home Office issued last week.

The extension also applies to their family members, and pharmacists working on the front line within the National Health Service will also not be required to pay the country's immigration health surcharge.

The move also applies to pre-registration pharmacists currently working in pharmacy.



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Dispensary Corner

IT'S a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

Officials in France have asked consumers to increase their intake of cheese in order to demonstrate their patriotism.

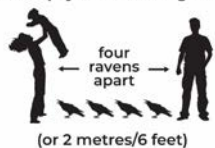
A statement from dairy industry organisation France Terre de Lait says consumption of cheese has plummeted by 60% due to coronavirus, due to the closure of restaurants and supermarkets along with a germophobic reluctance to buy over-the-counter fromage.

The nationalistic call for more cheesy chow-downs is part of a promotional campaign called "Fromagissons" which means "Let's act for cheese".

The move follows a similar food-related plea from France's neighbours in Belgium, where the public are being urged to eat more of the nation's fried potato "frites" (PD 28 Apr).

CANADA'S remote Yukon Territory has come up with several uniquely easy-to-interpret social distancing guides, including new ads which urge people to stay "at least four ravens apart".

What does physical distancing look like?



If that's too tricky, other posters suggest a safe distance is the length of one caribou (or reindeer) - with fine print saying if you encounter a real caribou it's better to be gorn away.

NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Telehealth Spirometry - Offer spirometry testing in your pharmacy or via home Telehealth

The Spirohome spirometer, is a revolutionary handheld spirometer for monitoring asthma, COPD, cystic fibrosis and a whole range of respiratory conditions.

Using a unique calibration free ultrasonic flow sensing technology, The zero maintenance Spirohome offers hospital grade accuracy, at pharmacy acceptable pricing. Available in two models, Spirohome Personal for home use with tele-healthcare and Spirohome Clinic for health services offered in your pharmacy, choose the model that works best for your pharmacy and service model.

Monitor your customer's respiratory health using the intuitive self guided app. Print out the results from your phone/tablet or email and SMS them directly to a nominated healthcare provider for review. Bring patient lung health respiratory care into your store today!

RRP: Price on application

Stockist: Now available from Bird Healthcare

More information: Please contact sales@birdhealthcare.com



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Why you want DivaCup:

Great profit return on space: Profit per mm is high, resulting in increased retailer revenue from the Fem Care category.

Great growth: Menstrual cups are growing ahead of the overall sanitary protection category and DivaCup is the No1 brand locally and globally.

Destination product: the unique selling proposition will result in less store switching & drive incremental sales for your stores.

Meets customer demand: Retailers that carry The DivaCup brand are seen as innovative and drive consumer loyalty to their stores.

Stockist: Contact your Pharmabroker representative for further details.

Website: www.divacup.com

Why your customers want DivaCup:

Less waste: Eco-friendly

Less \$\$\$: Cost Effective and Reusable

More time: Up to 8 hours protection, can be worn overnight

Chemical-free: It's BPA-free, with no added chemicals, plastics, or dyes.

Medical Grade Silicone: No nastiness: The DivaCup is the better choice for your body.



Available in three sizes: Model 0 - for those new to the world of periods and 18 years of age or younger, Model 1 - for those between the ages of 19 and 30 with a medium menstrual flow and Model 2 for those over the age of 30 and/or have a heavier menstrual flow.